UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

November 1, 2013

Michael Y.M. Loo
Secretary and Manager Princeville Utilities Company, Inc
5-3541 Kuhio Hawaii, Suite 221
Princeville, Hawaii 96722

Re: Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) –Conditional Approval of Princeville Utilities Company, Inc.'s (PUCI) *Princeville Response Action Plan*, dated September 2013 (RAP), as Amendment 1 to USEPA's conditional approval for PCB Cleanup under 40 CFR 761.61(c), dated June 14, 2013 (Original Approval).

Dear Mr. Loo:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) accepts the subject document as a request to amend USEPA's June 14, 2013 conditional approval of PUCI's Application for risk-based disposal approval for cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) regulations in 40 CFR§761.61(c). With this letter, USEPA approves the subject RAP as Amendment 1 to our Original Approval, subject to the conditions presented herein.

The subject RAP addresses a many but not all of the conditions specified in USEPA's Original Approval; those conditions not addressed remain as outstanding requirements. Those outstanding requirements include, but are not limited to:

- PUCI must prepare for USEPA approval under 40CFR761(c) a plan to characterize the nature and extent of PCBs present in soils and other media at the site but outside of Tank 411 and to clean up any such contamination to applicable RBCLs. We note that the RAP acknowledges that requirement and states that such characterization and any resultant cleanup will be performed.

- PUCI must comply with the requirements for notification of PCB Waste Activity and other procedural and record-keeping requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act regulations in 40 CFR§761 Subparts 202 through 218 (Subpart K of Part 761).

- PUCI must manage and dispose of all PCB-containing wastes generated during the subject cleanup to comply with the requirements of CFR§761.61(a)(5)(i)(B), 40 CFR § 761.65(c)(1), 40 CFR § 761.65(c)(9), 40 CFR § 761.79(g), 40 CFR § 761.62 and all other applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

The following comments clarify USEPA's interpretation of the subject RAP.

Comments

The potential sources of PCBs in soil listed on Page 17, Section 1.4.4, Paragraph 4 are plausible but PCBs are known to be in soils near but not adjacent to the tank and undocumented releases of transformer oils, lubricants, caulking or other PCB-containing materials to surface soils are also plausible sources.

USEPA considers the remedial action objective to implement the specification in 40CFR761.61(c) that USEPA will approve such an application if it finds that the method will not pose an unreasonable risk to health or the environment. The RAP is generally consistent with that specification, exceptions are noted herein.

The basis for the cost estimate provided for Alternative 2 is not apparent. Fifty-two weekly samples per year at $100 analytical cost per sample for 30 years would cost $156,000 in 2013 dollars.

Although the tasks are described elsewhere in the RAP, the summary bullets on Page 30, Section 3.2, paragraph 3 do not identify post-wash confirmation concrete sampling, confirmation sampling of cleaned-up wash water and confirmation sampling of water in the reservoir after it is re-filled and prior to reconnection to the Princeville water supply that are specified in the RAP and this approval.

USEPA interprets the discussion of differences in the type, color, texture or other physical properties as identifying a basis to be used to infer the presence of more than one type homogeneous material, that is, caulking from which separate batches of 10 samples will be collected. We also interprets the word "determine" on Page 31, Section 3.2.2.1, paragraph 1, second bullet to mean "evaluate". We also interpret the abbreviation "CR" used on Page 38, Sections 3.5.2.2 and 3.5.2.3 to be the same as "CVR" that was previously defined.

PUCI must conduct the PCB characterization, cleanup and verification sampling as specified in USEPA's Original Approval, as modified in the subject document, except when otherwise directed in the following conditions.

Conditions of Approval

1. USEPA's regional screening level (RSL) for Aroclor 1254 and Aroclor 1260 in tapwater is 0.034 ug/L. The USEPA's tapwater RSL of 0.17 ug/L identified in this plan is for low-risk congener mixtures, but Aroclors 1254 and 1260 are high-risk mixtures. Calculations and conclusions based on the tapwater RSL of 0.17 ug/L will need to be revised. USEPA considers both the Federal Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) of 0.5 ug/L and the RSL of 0.034 ug/L to be protective of human health and would accept the use of either in the development of risk-based cleanup level for concrete inside Tank 411.

2. Re-use of the tank following cleanup under 40CFR761.61(c) may be authorized under

40CFR761.30(u). Such a cleanup need not include washing of contaminated surfaces using the solvents specified in Subpart S of the regulation. Please revise for USEPA approval the proposed remedial approach that does not use non-aqueous solvents to wash concrete surfaces inside the tank.

3. Present for USEPA approval a more thorough description of proposed pressure wash identified on Page 25 in Section 2.4.5, paragraph 4.

4. The discharge of water to the earthen basin described on Page 31, Section 3.2.1, paragraph 4 must be managed to prevent overflow of the basin.

5. The sampling of visible caulk identified in Table 5, a minimum of 10 equally-spaced samples must be collected from each homogenous material identified in each of the 2 or 3 horizontal bands of caulking on the interior of the tank and the same from those on the exterior. Additionally, USEPA may require additional sampling of any of the media in the tank based on the results of that sampling, e.g., if the measured concentrations indicate that the media are not homogeneous.

6. Any revision of the RBCL for concrete as discussed on Page 35, Section 3.2.3.3, paragraph 1 must be approved by USEPA.

7. Non-metal equipment must be decontaminated as specified for metal equipment.

8. The water in the tank must be tested before its introduction into the delivery system. After the tank is refilled, water must be held in the tank with continuous mixing and 4 water samples must be collected over a minimum of 72 hours and analyzed using USEPA Method 8082A to verify that PCB concentrations in the water do not exceed the Federal MCL of 0.5 µg/L.

9. The verification report must include the basis for selection of the actual sample locations.

10. The schedule (Figure 6) must be revised to identify a different start date.

Any changes to the terms and conditions of this approval must be approved by USEPA prior to implementation.

This approval applies only to the PCBs present at the Site. This approval does not address cleanup of other contaminants at the Site.

USEPA expects the approved actions to meet the requirements for PCB Cleanup under 40 CFR§761.61(c), subject to confirmation in the cleanup verification report. However, if at some later date, new information shows that PCBs at or from the site may present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, USEPA may require additional characterization and/or cleanup of such PCBs.

This conditional approval does not change the PUCI's responsibility to perform characterization or cleanup activities or any other obligations under any other statute. We look forward to assisting PUCI during implementation of this PCB cleanup approval.

Please contact John Beach of my staff at 415-972-3347 if you have any questions concerning this conditional approval.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scott
Director
Waste Management Division

Cc: Joanna Seto, Hawaii Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch
Elizabeth Galvez, Hawaii Department of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Branch
John Beach, USEPA Region 9